

“Ricky Stands Tall” Inspires Young Readers With a Powerful Message About Confidence, Courage, and Character

Heart Beats Size Publishing Announces the Launch of a New Children’s Book Celebrating Self-Belief and Resilience

PRINCETON, N.J., July 16, 2026. Heart Beats Size Publishing proudly announces the release of *Ricky Stands Tall*, a heartfelt and empowering children’s book written to inspire kids to believe in themselves, embrace their uniqueness, and stand tall no matter their size.

Created by author Rick Alessandri, *Ricky Stands Tall* tells the story of Ricky, the smallest kid among his friends, who learns that determination, kindness, courage, and heart matter far more than height. Through sports, friendship, family support, and perseverance, Ricky discovers that true confidence comes from within.

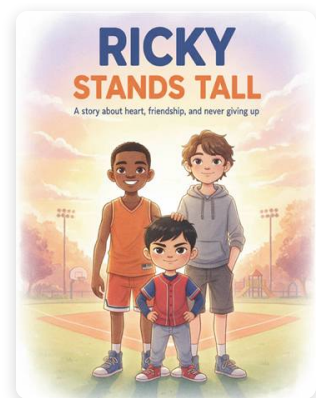
Designed for children, parents, educators, and coaches alike, the book delivers an uplifting message about overcoming self-doubt, handling teasing with resilience, and finding strength through character and effort.

“Ricky Stands Tall is about every child who has ever felt too small, different, or overlooked,” said Alessandri. “I wanted to create a story that reminds kids they don’t have to be the biggest person in the room to make the biggest impact.”

Featuring vibrant, cinematic illustrations and a warm, relatable story, the book encourages important conversations around:

- Self-confidence and emotional resilience
- Friendship and empathy
- Sportsmanship and perseverance
- Family encouragement and support
- Believing in yourself despite challenges

Early readers and educators have praised the book for its positive messaging and emotional authenticity, calling it “a story that children immediately connect with” and “a meaningful reminder that confidence and kindness can change everything.”



Ricky Stands Tall is ideal for elementary-aged readers, classroom reading programs, sports organizations, and families looking for encouraging stories that build self-esteem and inspire meaningful discussions.

The book is now available in paperback through [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

Book: Ricky Stands Tall: A story about heart, friendship, and never giving up | **Author:** Rick Alessandri | **Illustrator:** Ashiq Farzana
Publisher: Heart Beats Size Publishing | **Format:** Paperback, 24 pages | **Ages:** 4–8 | **Price:** \$9.99 | **ISBN-13:** 979-8996015504

MEDIA CONTACT

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ABOUT HEART BEATS SIZE PUBLISHING

Heart Beats Size Publishing creates inspiring stories that celebrate resilience, heart, family, and personal growth. Through meaningful storytelling and memorable characters, the company aims to empower children to believe in themselves and stand tall in every aspect of life.

ABOUT RICK ALESSANDRI

Rick Alessandri is an executive recruiter specializing in the sports, media, and technology industries, where he partners with some of the most innovative companies and leaders shaping the future of sports. Over the course of his career, he has built a reputation for connecting great talent with great opportunities and for understanding what drives people to succeed at the highest levels. Prior to becoming an executive recruiter, Rick was a media executive at both ESPN and Univision.

Ricky Stands Tall marks Rick's debut as a children's author, inspired by his passion for storytelling and his belief that confidence, resilience, and character matter far more than size or stature. Through Ricky's journey, Rick hopes to empower young readers to embrace who they are, stand up for themselves and others, and never stop pursuing what they love. Any resemblance of the author to Ricky is completely intentional.

Rick lives in New Jersey with his wife Roxanne, where he enjoys spending time with his kids, Krista, Erica, and Maxwell, playing pickleball, and rooting for the New York Mets and New York Jets.